

Improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems around the World

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON HEALTH STATISTICS

2012



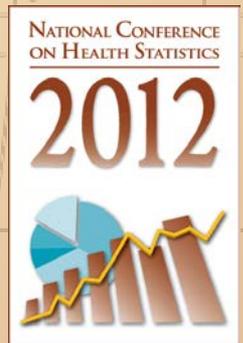
"Last month, an international research group published the latest statistics on global child mortality in *The Lancet*. They estimated that 7.6 million children under age 5 died in 2010, well over half from infectious diseases. But fewer than 3% of those deaths were medically certified—assigned a cause by a health worker and recorded in an official database. For the other 97%, the scientists are forced to make sophisticated guesses." *Science, June 2012.*



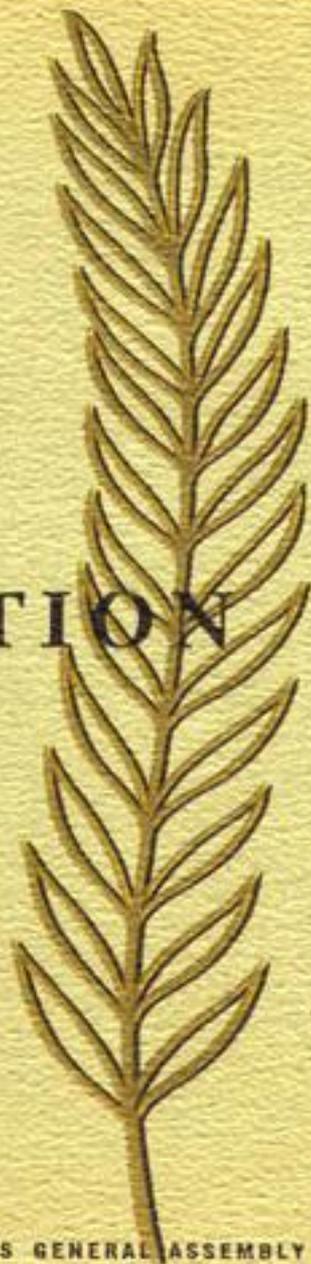
Improving Civil Registration & Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems around the World

LCDR Erin Nichols, USPHS

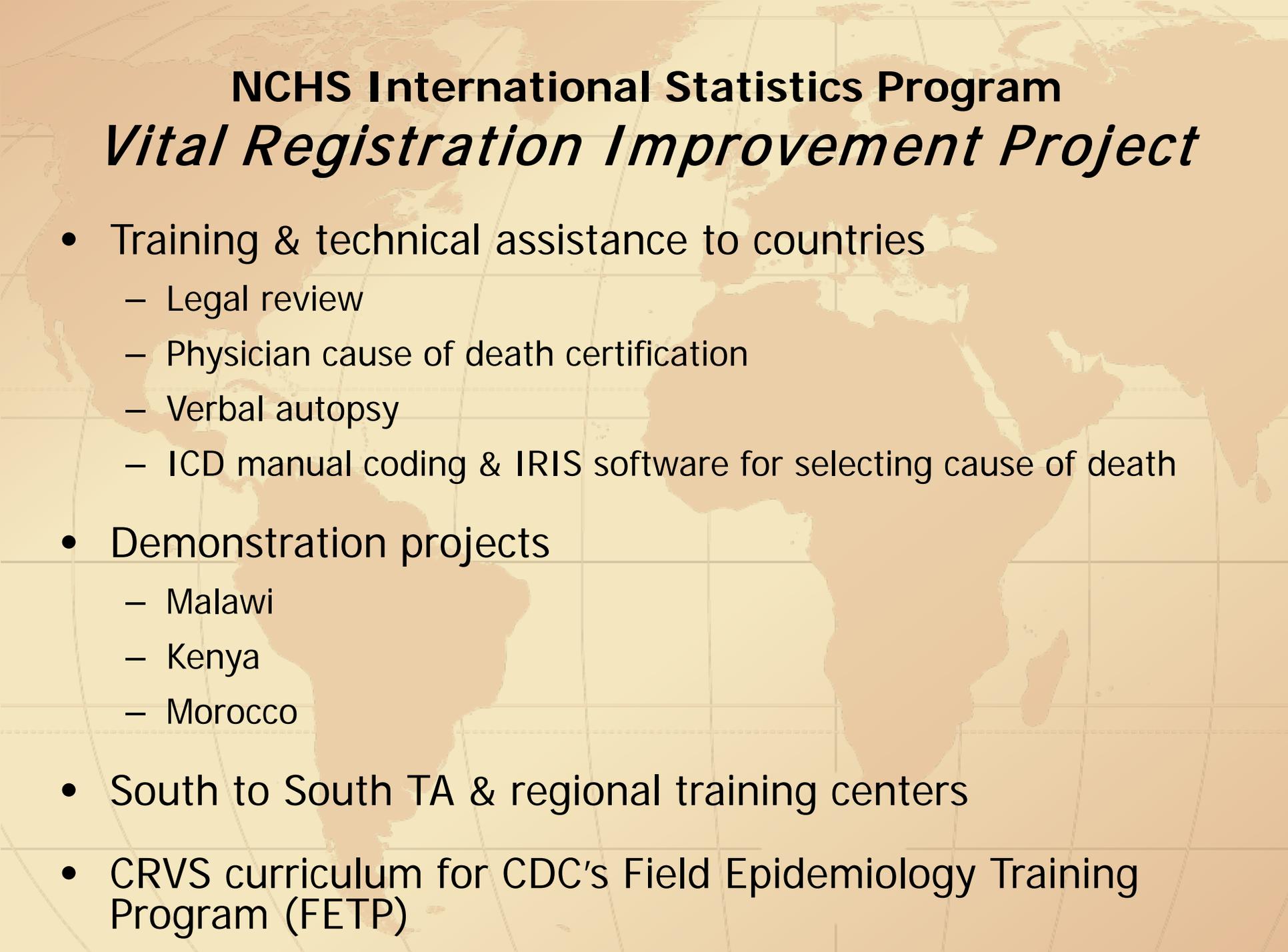
International Statistics Program
National Center for Health Statistics



THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION
OF **H**uman **R**ights



ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT
ITS 183RD MEETING, HELD IN PARIS ON 10 DECEMBER, 1948

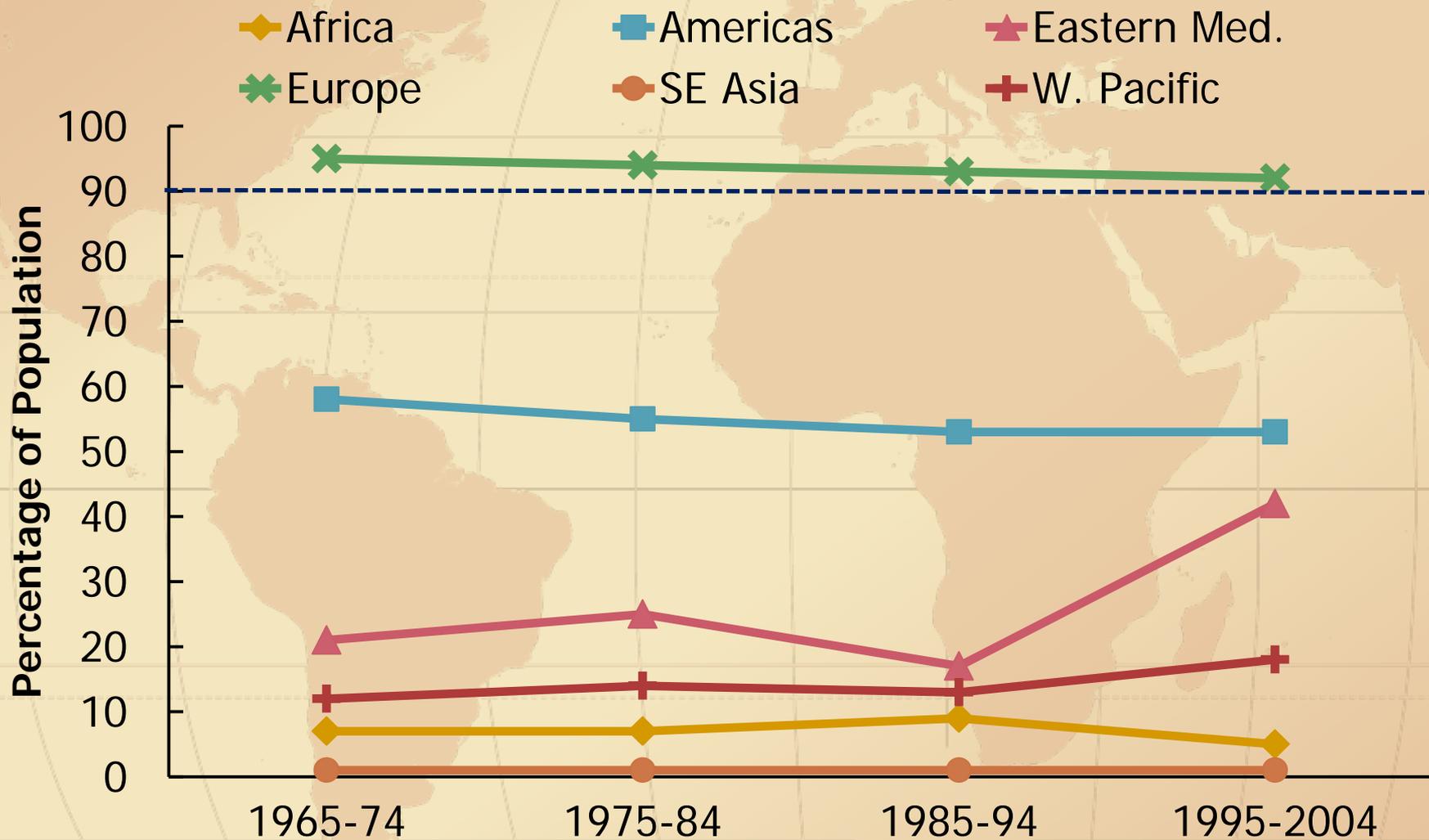
A faint, light-colored world map is visible in the background of the slide, showing the outlines of continents and a grid of latitude and longitude lines.

NCHS International Statistics Program

Vital Registration Improvement Project

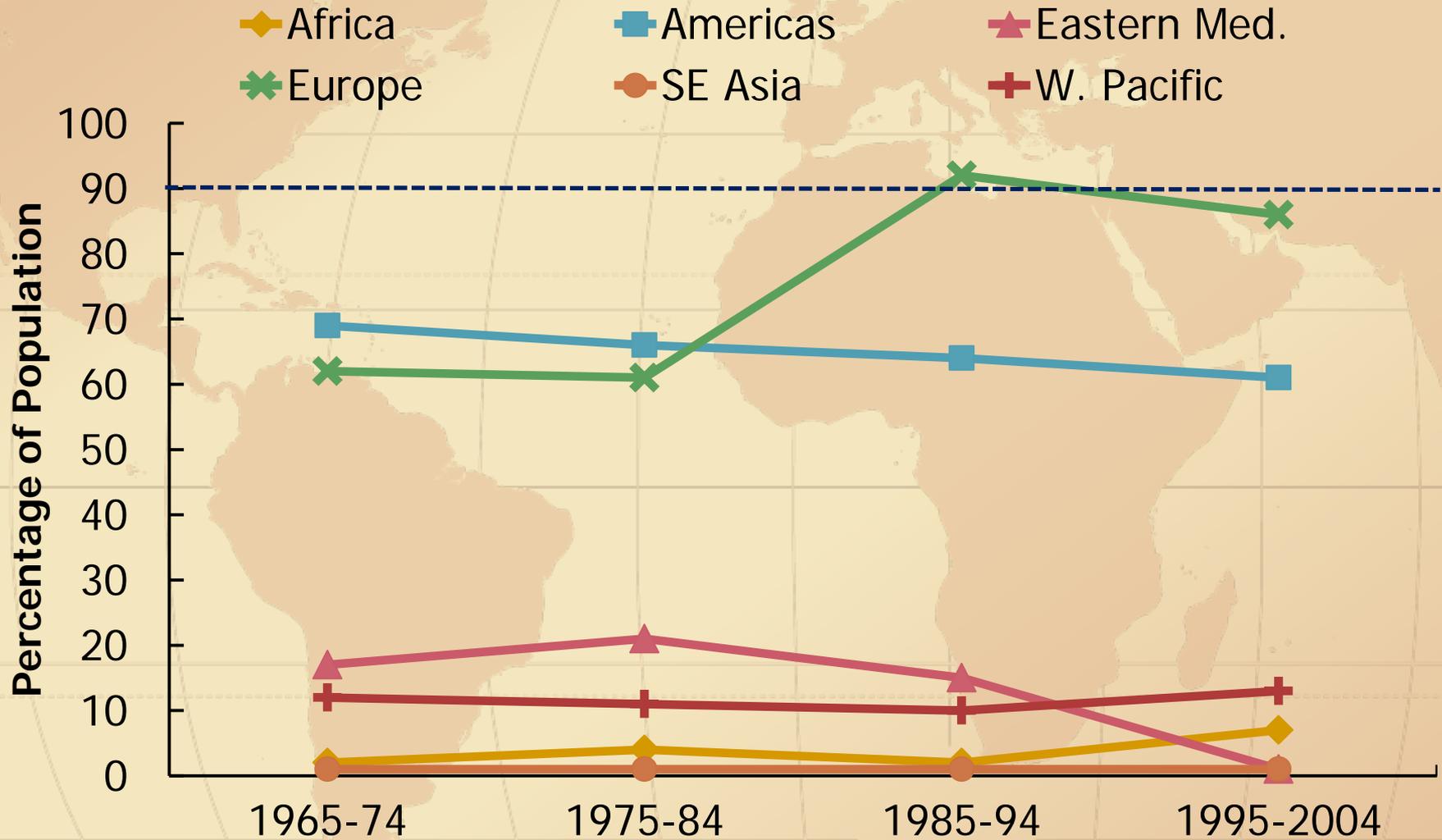
- Training & technical assistance to countries
 - Legal review
 - Physician cause of death certification
 - Verbal autopsy
 - ICD manual coding & IRIS software for selecting cause of death
- Demonstration projects
 - Malawi
 - Kenya
 - Morocco
- South to South TA & regional training centers
- CRVS curriculum for CDC's Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)

BIRTHS: Percentage of Population Living in Countries with Complete Civil Registration Systems



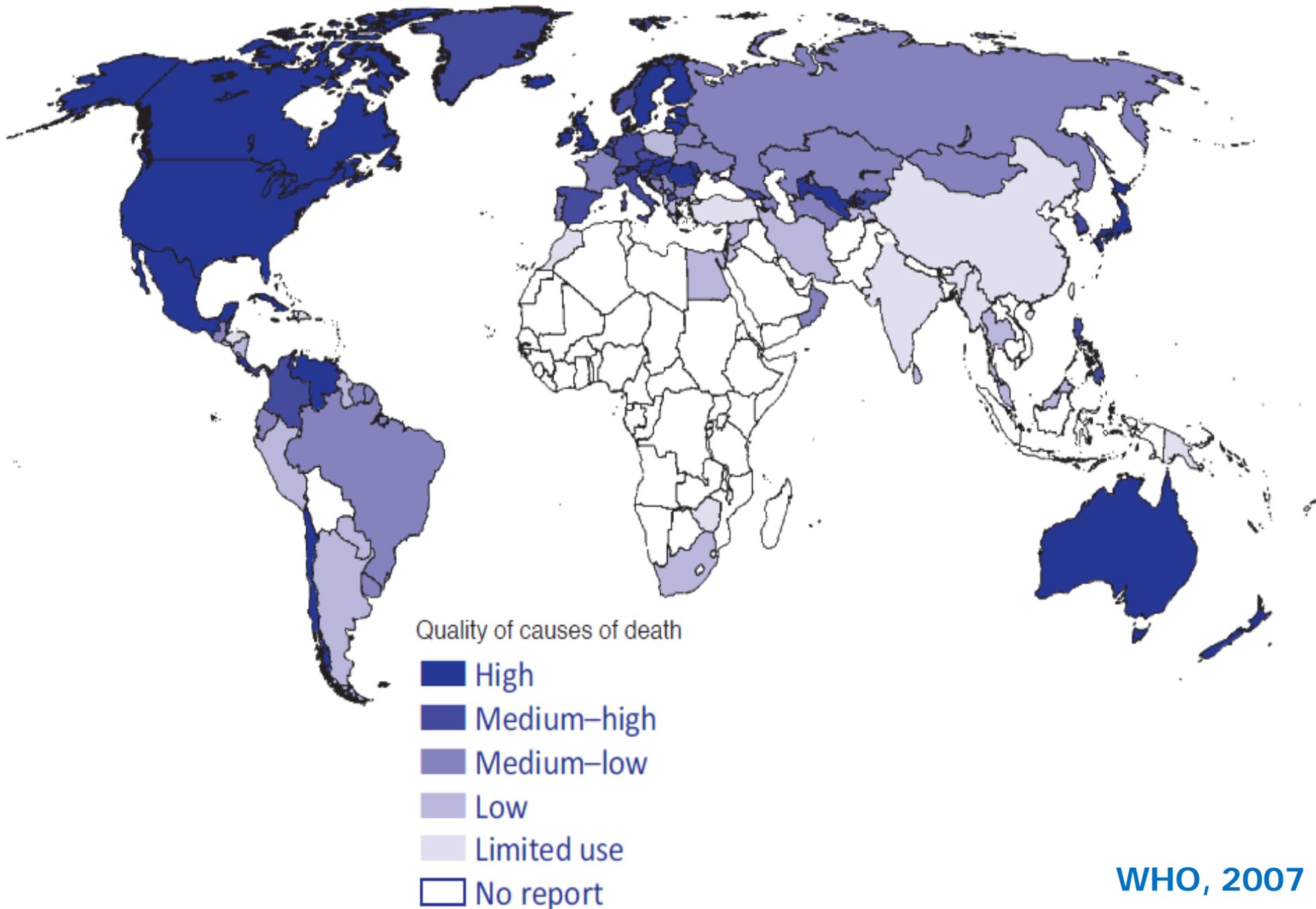
Source: Mahapatra et al., Who Counts? 2 Civil registration systems and vital statistics: successes and missed opportunities. *Lancet*. 2007; 370:1653-63. Data: UN Statistics Division.

DEATHS: Percentage of Population Living in Countries with Complete Civil Registration Systems



Source: Mahapatra et al., Who Counts? 2 Civil registration systems and vital statistics: successes and missed opportunities. *Lancet*. 2007; 370:1653-63. Data: UN Statistics Division.

Figure 1.2 Quality of globally available information on causes of death



The Challenge:

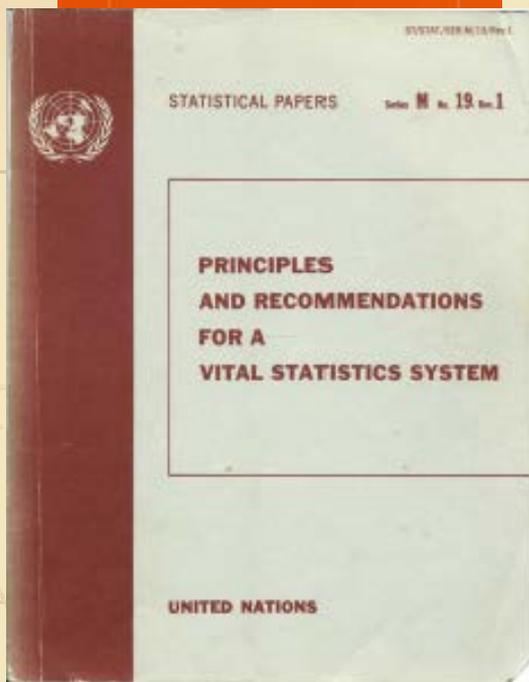
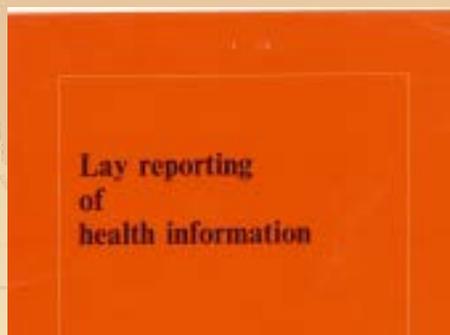
- ❑ **48 million** infants are not registered each year (~ 40%)
- ❑ **38 million** deaths are not registered (2/3 of all deaths globally)
- ❑ **85 countries** have zero or unreliable cause of death information
 - an additional 52 countries have low-quality data

Why CRVS Systems Don't Work

- Lack of priority by government
 - Poor quality systems
 - Inadequate systems outside of urban areas
- A passive system doesn't work in a developing setting
 - Majority of events occur at home
 - Population doesn't feel need to register
 - Barriers to registering (distance, cost, time, lack of awareness, etc.)

Previous International Efforts to Strengthen CRVS Systems

- Setting standards to improve comparability 
- International collection & publication of data 
- Strengthening national statistical systems 
 - Not a government priority
 - Lack of recognition as key component of development



What Has Changed?

- Most countries are now **more developed**
- **Mobile technology** is eliminating previous communication problems
- National **ID systems** require birth, death info.
- Focus on **unique advantages** of CRVS:
 - Identification – via birth registration
 - Continuous data flow
 - Small area data
 - Cause of death information
 - Inexpensive data source



Devices such as smart phones can provide real-time data access from remote areas. WHO.

CRVS Improvement Efforts:

How to make systems function well

- Create demand by **requiring certificates** for government services
- Ensure system is **affordable**
- Improve **cause of death info.**
 - Useful info. from physicians
 - Info. with no physician involvement (*verbal autopsy*)
- Employ **community health workers** to record events at household level (*active system*)



Community volunteer gathering information in the Northern Region of Ghana.

Thank you!

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.